

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were pending in this application, of which claim 1 has been rejected, and objection has been made to claims 2-6. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been canceled and claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the subject matter of canceled claim 1 therein. As such, claims 2-6 will remain pending in this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objection(s) and rejection(s) in view of the remarks contained herein.

OBJECTION / ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

An objection was made to claims 2-6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Office Action indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-6.

By this Amendment, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form, and claims 3-6 now depend from new independent claim 2. The scope of original claim 2 has not been narrowed by this amendment. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding objection to claims 2-6. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 2, as well as its dependent claims 3-6, are in condition for immediate allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U. S. C. §103

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawanabe (US 4,795,720) in view of Edelstein (US 6,063,651). Applicants respectfully submit that this

rejection is moot in light of the claim amendments. As previously discussed, claim 1 has been canceled and claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form. Also, original claims 3-6 now depend from new independent claim 2. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6 are in condition for allowance.

As all pending claims contain allowable subject matter, as confirmed in the present Office Action, Applicants look forward to receipt of a Notice of Allowance in due course.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding objection and rejections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees under 37 C. F. R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 033773M069.

Respectfully submitted,
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